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SOURCE Su-pei Jih-pao.

DISCOUNTS US CLAIMS OF A-BOMB POWER,
PLAYS UP A-BOMB DEFENSIVE MEASURES

On 8 August 1945, after the US had dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, US newspapers and news agencies made numerous and varied statements about the tremendous power of the atomic bomb. One newspaper stated that one A-bomb is more violent than 30,000 tons of dynamite. Another stated that one A-bomb was equal in force to bombs carried by 2,000 superfortresses. Another said that one A-bomb produces heat equivalent to that produced by the combustion of 5 million pounds of coal. Again, it has been said that all structures within a radius of 50 miles of an A-bomb blast would be damaged. All of these statements are exaggerated and boastful.

A US military photographic officer, after a study of the photographs taken following the bombing of Hiroshima, expressed the opinion that about 60 percent of the structures within a radius of 2 miles of the center of explosion were destroyed. This estimate presumably is reliable, and yet may be somewhat of an exaggeration. Hence the explosive force of an A-bomb is actually only one-hundredth part, more or less, of the power it is said to have.

A Chinese witness of the Hiroshima bombing was a man by the name of Cheng Chung-chih, of Chin-sha Chen in southern Hopoh. At the time of the bombing, he was confined in a Japanese prison not far from the center of Hiroshima, for having sabotaged some belts on electrical machinery. At first he heard a slight mechanical sound, then, shortly after, the crash and rumble of the explosion. Looking through one of the windows, he saw that the city was on fire. But the prison was not destroyed nor were any of its inmates killed or injured.

On 1 July 1946, the US carried an A-bomb experiment at Bikini in the Pacific Ocean. Authorities on A-bombs stated in advance that not a living creature near the center of the atomic explosion would be lucky enough to survive. The inhabitants of Bikini were all removed to other islands and a number of pigs and sheep were placed near the scene of the experiment for test purposes. But, when the explosion came, the sheep went right on basing and munching the grass. Experimental pig No 311 was later examined in a naval laboratory and found to be unharmed and completely normal. The power of an atomic bomb is no more than this.

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Defense measures against A-bombs are already known. One is a rocket launcher which, it is said, utilizes radar and rockets operated with the proximity fuse; it is able to destroy any A-bomb carrying plane or rocket flying at any height. Another defense is the construction of underground chambers. The effects of an A-bomb explosion do not penetrate far below the surface of the ground; therefore, it is only necessary to construct underground shelters a little stronger than is customary for ordinary bombs. Underground shelters and underground chambers for factories are safer if built on the slopes of mountains. There is another method, and that is to discover the spot where the A-bomb carrying planes or rockets are launched and to bomb and destroy the enemy's installations there first.

The US imperialists consider the A-bomb a mysterious weapon that must be kept a secret. But already the making of A-bombs is no longer a secret. On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the October Revolution in 1947, Molotov said, "Among US expansionists, a new religion is spreading; having lost confidence in their inner power, they are pinning their faith on the secret of the atomic bomb, although it is no longer a secret." US imperialists think that if they do not announce what is called the secret of the A-bomb, no other country will be able to manufacture A-bombs. They are merely deceiving themselves.

Soviet scientists have already achieved brilliant results in their study of atomic energy. In the construction of A-bombs and of the study of cosmic rays, Soviet scientists have already surpassed the achievements of the scientists of any other country in the world. When the Soviet Union defeated Hitler Germany, it captured not a few German specialists in atomic science, as well as their experimental records and apparatus. The Soviet Union's reserves of uranium ore in the Ural Mountains are far more abundant than those in the US and Canada. Therefore, even before the US used the A-bomb in Japan, some US and British scientists stated that the Soviet Union was on the verge of discovering how to make the A-bomb. The French scientist Li-wei possibly Levy has said, "the Soviet Union is preparing to make A-bombs 60 times as powerful as those used in the bombing of Japan."

The warmongers think they can frighten people with the A-bomb; nothing could be more stupid or ridiculous. Furthermore, there is another very important point. No military weapon can be the decisive factor in determining victory or defeat in a war. The decisive factor is the character of the conflict and of the men who wield the weapons. In World War II, was it not Germany who first invented and used magnetic mines? Was it not Germany who invented and used flying missiles and other new types of weapons? But what good were they? We Chinese, from our own experience, understand this truth. In our people's struggle for liberation, did not the reactionary KMT use all kinds of US rifles, guns, tanks, airplanes, and other kinds of superior weapons? But of what use were they? Germany offers a piece of instruction which it would be well for the warmongers to remember. In World War II, German scientists preceded the US in the study of atomic bombs; they constructed in Norway a factory to produce heavy water which was an integral part of the plant to manufacture A-bombs. But before long, it was destroyed by the Fascist-hating people of Norway.

At present, US warmongers are going contrary to the will of the people of the whole world in using the A-bomb as an instrument for aggression. It is too much to say that the peace-loving war-hating people of the world will not know how to demolish the factory that makes A-bombs. The people of the world are against the use of atomic weapons; the only ones who oppose the prohibition of atomic weapons are the very small number of warmongers. World sentiment in favor of peace is very powerful; the warmongers are a solitary lot. The power of the A-bomb cannot intimidate and restrain people who are struggling for peace. We are confident that the united moral force of the peace-loving people of the world certainly can prevent a new war.

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